

Ngarinyin language

The **Ngarinyin** language (*Ungarinjin*), or **Eastern Worrorran**, is a moribund Australian Aboriginal language of Western Australia. With less than one hundred living speakers, Ngarinyin is considered a critically endangered language, though there are efforts being made to documenting speech and grammar structures before it becomes extinct, including the specifics on the terms of the kinship system of the language.

Contents

Classification

Usage

Kinship Terms

Phonology

Vowels

Consonants

Notes

References

Classification

Ngarinyin is one of the Worrorran languages. It is a dialect cluster, and may be considered more than a single language; Bowern (2011) lists Ngarinyin, Andajin, and Worla.^[4]

Usage

As a nearly extinct language, Ngarinyin is found only within the local region of Northern Kimberley, Australia, and other local languages are found in the surrounding region instead due to the small population of Ngarinyin speakers, including the Worrorran languages of Wunambal and Worora. Ngarinyin is found at the center of the region, and the other aboriginal languages in the area face similar levels of endangerment. Ngarinyin was previously one of the most prevalent of the aboriginal languages in Northern Kimberley, but it has since become a language known only by a small number of the elderly.^[5] Kriol is often used by younger generations instead of Ngarinyin, though some knowledge of the language is still retained by these people.^[6]

Kinship Terms

Ngarinyin places great emphasis on the classification of family members and is similar to the neighboring aboriginal languages of Worora and Wunambal to the point of being virtually identical, though it is still considered unusual among those that study kinship systems of aboriginal languages.^[7] One of

Ngarinyin	
Eastern Worrorran	
<i>Ungarinjin</i>	
Region	Western Australia
Ethnicity	Ngarinjin, Wurla (Waladjangarri)
Native speakers	38 (2016 census) ^[1] plus 2 Andajin (2009) ^[2]
Language family	Worrorran <div>▪ Ngarinyin</div>
Dialects	Ungarinjin <div>Guwidj (Orla)</div> <div>Waladja</div> <div>Ngarnawu</div> <div>Andajin</div> <div>Munumburru</div> <div>Wolyamidi</div> <div>Waladjangarri</div>
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>ung – Ngarinyin</div> <div>ajn – Andajin</div>
Glottolog	ngar1284 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ngar1284) ^[3]
AIATSIS ^[2]	K18 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K18) Ungarinjin, K23 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K23) Andajin, K25 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/1

the most noticeable features of this system is the use of identical terms given to kin usually separated by generation level. For instance, the titles *wife's brother*, *wife's father* and *wife's father's father* in English all share the same title of *waiingi* in Ngarinyin.

Phonology

Vowels

	Front	Back
High	i i:	u u:
Mid	e	o
Low	a a:	

Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p	t	ʈ	c	k
Nasal	m	n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ
Lateral		l	ɭ	ʎ	
Rhotic		r	ɻ		
Semivowel	w			j	

Notes

1. "Census 2016, Language spoken at home by Sex (SA2+)" (http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T09_SA). *stat.data.abs.gov.au*. ABS. Retrieved 30 October 2017.
2. K18 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K18>) Ungarinyin at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (see the info box for additional links)
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ngarinyin" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/luoid/id/ngar1284>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Bowern, Claire. 2011. "How Many Languages Were Spoken in Australia?" (<http://anggarroon.wordpress.com/2011/12/23/how-many-languages-were-spoken-in-australia/>), *Anggarroon: Australian languages on the web*, December 23, 2011 (corrected (<http://pamanyungan.sites.yale.edu/master-list-australian-languages-v12>) February 6, 2012)
5. Capell, Arthur (1 May 2017). "The Classification of Languages in North and North-West Australia". *Oceania*. **10** (3): 241–272. doi:10.1002/j.1834-4461.1940.tb00292.x (<https://doi.org/10.1002%2Fj.1834-4461.1940.tb00292.x>). JSTOR 40327769 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40327769>).
6. "Ngarinyin" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ung>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 1 May 2017.
7. Rumsey, Alan (1 January 1981). "Kinship and Context among the Ngarinyin". *Oceania*. **51** (3): 181–192. doi:10.1002/j.1834-4461.1981.tb01448.x (<https://doi.org/10.1002%2Fj.1834-4461.1981.tb01448.x>). JSTOR 40332242 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40332242>).

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language/K25) Mur
K26 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K26>) Wolyamidi



Sign in the Ngarinjin language

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